



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,076	02/08/2001	Benjamin Oshlack	200.1134	7481

7590 07/22/2002

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10018

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

RUSSEL, JEFFREY E

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1653

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2002

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/781,076

Applicant(s)

OSHLACK ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey E. Russel

Art Unit

1653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,3,4. 6) Other: _____

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the presence of legal terminology.

Each occurrence of the word "said" should be changed to "the". Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: At page 3, line 13, "bimodally" is misspelled. At page 3, line 27, "treatment" is misspelled. At page 7, line 22, "the" (first occurrence) should not be capitalized. At page 8, line 18, "opioid" (second occurrence) is misspelled. At page 10, line 25, and page 35, line 33, the second period in each line should be deleted. At page 16, line 34, it is believed that "patch" should be inserted after "transdermal". Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claims 13, 14, 18, 22, 27, 34, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. There is no antecedent basis in the claims for the phrase "the oral dosage form" at claim 13, line 1. The claims upon which claim 13 depends do not mention oral administration. At claim 14, line 5, the "preferably..." phrase is indefinite because it is not clear if the claim is to be limited to the preferred embodiment or not. It is suggested that the word "preferably" could be deleted from the claim. There is no antecedent basis in the claims for the phrase "the opioid receptor antagonist" at claim 18, lines 1-2. Note that the claim upon which claim 18 depends does not mention opioid receptors. It is suggested that the word "receptor" be deleted from claim 18. For analogous reasons, it is suggested that the word "receptor" be deleted from claims 22, 27, 34, and 39.

4. Claims 37-39 are objected to because of the following informalities: At claim 37, line 4, "an" should be changed to "a". Appropriate correction is required.

Art Unit: 1653

5. Instant claims 1-36 and 39 are deemed not to be entitled under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) to the benefit of the filing date of provisional application 60/181,358 because the provisional application, under the test of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, does not disclose the release of sub-analgesic amounts of the opioid agonist; does not disclose the opioid antagonists diprenorphine, etorphine, or dihydroetorphine; and does not disclose opioid antagonists in amounts as low as 1000 fold less than the amounts of opioid agonist. Accordingly, the WO Patent Application 99/32120 and the WO Patent Application 00/01377 are available as prior art against these claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Instant claims 37 and 38 are deemed to be entitled under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) to the benefit of the filing date of provisional application 60/181,358 because the provisional application, under the test of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, discloses the claimed invention. Accordingly, the WO Patent Application 99/32120 and the WO Patent Application 00/01377 are available as prior art against these claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(a).

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 1653

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 15-17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the WO Patent Application 99/32120. The WO Patent Application '120 teaches oral dosage forms of an opioid analgesic, which can be in sustained release form and which comprise a combination of an opioid agonist and an opioid antagonist. In particular, the opioid agonist can be hydromorphone, oxycodone, or morphine, and the opioid antagonist can be naltrexone. See, e.g., the Abstract and page 8, lines 1-9. Use of the combination of opioid agonist and antagonist reduces the abuse potential of the opioid agonist and attenuates the possibility of physical dependence upon the opioid agonist (see, e.g., page 6, lines 5-12, and page 8, lines 14-24). The sustained release form permits administration on a twice-a-day or a once-a-day basis and can provide analgesia for about 24 hours (see, e.g., page 8, lines 25-28, and page 21, lines 21-25). The sustained release carrier can be present either a matrix or as a coating, and the oral dosage form can be granules, spheroids, beads, or pellets (see, e.g., page 8, line 25 - page 9, line 1, and page 20, lines 10-11).

Art Unit: 1653

8. Claims 2, 18, 21-30, and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the WO Patent Application 99/32120 as applied against claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 15-17, 19, and 20 above, and further in view of Crain et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,125). The WO Patent Application '120 teaches the oral administration of combinations of opioid agonists and opioid antagonists where the opioid antagonist reduces the abuse potential of and attenuates physical dependence upon the opioid agonist, but does not teach amounts of opioid antagonists which enhance the potency of the opioid agonist or which reduce side effects of the opioid agonist such as anti-analgesia, hyperalgesia, hyperexcitability, and tolerance, and does not teach opioid antagonist amounts of 100 to about 1000 fold less than the amounts of opioid agonist. Crain et al teach the oral administration of combinations of opioid agonists and opioid antagonists where the opioid antagonist enhances the potency of the opioid agonist and reduces the side effects of the opioid agonist such as anti-analgesia, hyperalgesia, hyperexcitability, and tolerance. To achieve these results, Crain et al administer their opioid antagonists in amounts at least 100-1000 fold less than the amount of the opioid agonist. Because of the potency-enhancing effect of the opioid antagonist, lesser amounts, including sub-analgesic amounts, of the opioid agonist can be used. See, e.g., the Abstract; column 5, lines 9-22 and 41-47; column 6, lines 7-36; and claim 4. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicants' invention was made to administer the opioid agonists and antagonists of the WO Patent Application '120 in the amounts and proportions taught Crain et al because Crain et al's amounts and proportions are taught to be applicable to a wide variety of administration means, and because Crain et al's proportions provide the benefit of enhanced potency of the opioid agonist while permitting the use of lower amounts and with fewer side effects while still achieving a goal of the WO Patent

Application '120 of reducing the specific side effect of physical dependence on the opioid agonist.

9. Claims 3 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the WO Patent Application 99/32120 as applied against claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 15-17, 19, and 20 above, and further in view of the WO Patent Application 00/01377 or Simon (U.S. Patent No. 6,103,258). The WO Patent Application '120 does not teach releasing the opioid agonist and antagonist at substantially proportionate rates. The WO Patent Application '377 teaches co-administration of opioid agonists and antagonists by intramuscular, intravenous, nasal, oral, sublingual or transdermal methods, recognizes that the individual components can have different pharmacokinetic profiles and different in vivo life spans, and teaches providing a controlled release matrix or coating to the shorter-acting component so that its pharmacokinetic profile better matches the profile of the longer-acting component, i.e. so that their release rates are proportional. See, e.g., page 17, line 22 - page 18, line 26; page 22, lines 20-22; page 22, line 30 - page 23, line 8. Simon is the U.S. equivalent of the WO Patent Application 00/01377 and contains the same disclosure as that of the WO Patent Application '377 (see, e.g., column 9, line 39 - column 10, line 18, and column 12, lines 33-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicants' invention was made to provide controlled release matrices or coatings as taught by the WO Patent Application '377 and Simon to the agonist or antagonist of the WO Patent Application '120 so that the problem of different pharmacokinetic profiles and in vivo lifespans is avoided.

10. Claims 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the WO Patent Application 99/32120 in view of Crain et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,125) as applied against

claims 2, 18, 21-30, and 33-36 above, and further in view of the WO Patent Application 00/01377 or Simon (U.S. Patent No. 6,103,258). The WO Patent Application '120 does not teach releasing the opioid agonist and antagonist at substantially proportionate rates. The WO Patent Application '377 teaches co-administration of opioid agonists and antagonists by intramuscular, intravenous, nasal, oral, sublingual or transdermal methods, recognizes that the individual components can have different pharmacokinetic profiles and different in vivo life spans, and teaches providing a controlled release matrix or coating to the shorter-acting component so that its pharmacokinetic profile better matches the profile of the longer-acting component, i.e. so that their release rates are proportional. See, e.g., page 17, line 22 - page 18, line 26; page 22, lines 20-22; page 22, line 30 - page 23, line 8. Simon is the U.S. equivalent of the WO Patent Application 00/01377 and contains the same disclosure as that of the WO Patent Application '377 (see, e.g., column 9, line 39 - column 10, line 18, and column 12, lines 33-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicants' invention was made to provide controlled release matrices or coatings as taught by the WO Patent Application '377 and Simon to the agonist or antagonist of the WO Patent Application '120 so that the problem of different pharmacokinetic profiles and in vivo lifespans is avoided.

11. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 15-17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Palermo et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,228,863); claims 2, 18, 21-30, and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Palermo et al in view of Crain et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,125); claims 3 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Palermo et al in view of the WO Patent Application 00/01377 or Simon (U.S. Patent No. 6,103,258); and claims 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the

WO Patent Application 99/32120 in view of Crain et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,125) and further in view of the WO Patent Application 00/01377 or Simon (U.S. Patent No. 6,103,258). Palermo et al is the U.S. equivalent of the WO Patent Application 99/32120 applied above, contains the same disclosure as that of the WO Patent Application '120 relied upon in the above rejections, and accordingly anticipates or renders obvious the claims for the same reasons set forth in the above rejections. Application of Crain et al, the WO Patent Application '377, and Simon is the same as in the above rejections.

12. Claims 1-4, 6, 10, 18-23, 26-28, 32-34, and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the WO Patent Application 00/01377 in view of Reder et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,968,547). The WO Patent Application '377 teaches transdermal administration of an analgesic combination of fentanyl and nalmefene. The presence of the nalmefene increases the potency of the opioid agonist while decreasing side effects such as the possibility of physical dependence upon the opioid agonist. The proportions of agonist to antagonist exemplified in the WO Patent Application '377 range from about 100 to about 1000 fold less for the antagonist. See, e.g., page 9, lines 21-29; page 14, lines 16-19; page 18, lines 1-26; page 19, lines 22-24; page 21, lines 29-30; and page 22, lines 20-28. The WO Patent Application '377 is not limited to any particular transdermal delivery system, but does not teach one with a delivery time of at least 3 days. Reder et al teach administration of an opioid agonist using a transdermal delivery system which releases the agonist over a period of 5 days. See, e.g., the abstract and claim 1. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicants' invention was made to administer the analgesic combination of the WO Patent Application '377 using the transdermal delivery system of Reder et al because the WO Patent Application '377's analgesic combination

can be administered using any transdermal delivery system, because Reder et al's transdermal system is used to deliver analogous compounds for the same analgesic purpose, and because use of Reder et al's transdermal system will permit long-time pain relief with minimal intrusion to the patient.

13. Claims 1-4, 7, 10, 18-23, 26-28, and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the WO Patent Application 00/01377 in view of Chasin et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,942,241). The WO Patent Application '377 teaches administration of an analgesic combination of an opioid agonist and nalmefene. Administration can be by any known method, such as intramuscular. The presence of the nalmefene increases the potency of the opioid agonist while decreasing side effects such as the possibility of physical dependence upon the opioid agonist. The proportions of agonist to antagonist exemplified in the WO Patent Application '377 range from about 100 to about 1000 fold less for the antagonist. See, e.g., page 9, lines 21-29; page 14, lines 16-19; page 18, lines 1-26; page 19, lines 22-24; page 21, lines 29-30; and page 22, lines 20-28. The WO Patent Application '377 is not limited to any particular delivery system, but does not teach an injectable formulation with a delivery time of at least 8 hours. Chasin et al teach administration of anesthetics including opioid agonists by intramuscular injection of a controlled release material which releases the active agent over a period of preferably about 1 to 24 hours or more. See, e.g., the abstract; column 6, lines 39-44; column 17, lines 2-3; and column 18, lines 29-34. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicants' invention was made to administer the opioid agonist and antagonist combination of the WO Patent Application '377 using the intramuscular formulation of Chasin et al because the WO Patent Application '377's opioid agonist and antagonist combination can be administered using

any delivery system including intramuscular delivery, because Chasin et al's intramuscular formulations are used to deliver analogous compounds, and because use of Chasin et al's intramuscular formulations will permit long-time treatment with minimal intrusion to the patient.

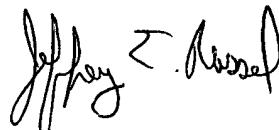
14. Claims 1-4, 6, 10, 18-23, 26-28, 32-34, and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Simon (U.S. Patent No. 6,103,258) in view of Reder et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,968,547); and claims 1-4, 7, 10, 18-23, 26-28, and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Simon (U.S. Patent No. 6,103,258) in view of Chasin et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,942,241). Simon is the U.S. equivalent of the WO Patent Application 00/01377 applied above, contains the same disclosure as that of the WO Patent Application '377 relied upon in the above rejection, and accordingly renders obvious the claims for the same reasons set forth in the above rejections. Application of Reder et al and Chasin et al is the same as in the above rejections.

15. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art of record does not teach or suggest intranasal controlled release formulations which are capable of providing opioid analgesia for at least about 8 hours. The limit as disclosed in the prior art of record appears to be about 3 hours ([ee, e.g., Hussain (U.S. Patent No. 4,464,378) and Illum (U.S. Patent No. 5,629,011, cited at page 20, line 29, of the specification)], and this does not provide motivation or a reasonable expectation of success in achieving the at least about 8 hour time period claimed by Applicants.

Art Unit: 1653

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey E. Russel at telephone number (703) 308-3975. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Christopher Low can be reached at (703) 308-2923. The fax number for Art Unit 1653 for formal communications is (703) 305-3014; for informal communications such as proposed amendments, the fax number (703) 746-5175 can be used. The telephone number for the Technology Center 1 receptionist is (703) 308-0196.



Jeffrey E. Russel

Primary Patent Examiner

Art Unit 1653

JRussel

July 19, 2002